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POLAND: Kania Continues Tough Line

Party leader Kania's warning on Thursday that the government would not rule out implementing a state of emergency in the event of a strike by radio and television workers underlines his determination to prevent disruption of the electronic media.

This is the first time that Kania has publicly referred to a state of emergency. In late August he said that the regime would not allow a radio and television strike. In the face of a nationwide strike of radio and television, the government might initially declare a state of emergency only in that industry.

Solidarity has not yet reacted to Kania's statement. Pressure for a strike has come from the Solidarity chapter of radio and television technicians and not from the national leadership. On Thursday Solidarity chief Walesa said that the union would use all legal means to gain access to the media.

the union leadership has concluded that such a strike would be illegal.

The union's national leadership may have difficulty, however, in controlling the technicians. In addition to their general complaint about limited union access to the media, the technicians believe that the government has not negotiated honestly and are angered by restrictions on their use of telex facilities. As early as mid-August the technicians had drawn up a detailed strike schedule that would culminate at the end of September in a nationwide strike of the electronic media.

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